



YOU CAN SAVE BIRDS FROM FLYING INTO WINDOWS!



Christine Sheppard, ABC



Millions of birds die every year flying into windows, because they can't tell reflections from trees, plants and sky. *Half those collisions are on houses.*

Never had a bird hit your window? Perhaps you have been lucky—so far. More likely, you haven't been around to see or hear it when it happened, and the bird has either flown off to die elsewhere or been scavenged by a neighborhood cat, raccoon, or crow. But the odds are that sooner or later, your windows will kill a bird.



Wood Thrush killed after colliding with a window.
Photo: Mike Parr, ABC



This Barn Swallow dove through the small space shown at top flight speed—over 30 miles per hour! Photo: Keith Ringland

Not all windows are equally hazardous. Check to see which of your windows are most reflective, and closest to areas where you see birds when they are active. **Collisions happen more frequently during spring and fall migration periods or when resident birds fledge young or leave territories to seek food in winter.**

Even small windows can be dangerous, as many birds fly into small spaces such as tree cavities or between branches.

Research has identified solutions to alert birds to windows. The easiest of these involve applying visible markings to the outside of windows in patterns that the birds can see while requiring minimal glass coverage to keep your view unobscured. Although we don't yet have all the answers, we know that most birds will avoid windows with vertical stripes spaced four inches apart or less, or horizontal stripes spaced two inches or less apart. Stripes should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and light colors are generally more visible. More complicated or irregular patterns will also work as long as they follow the general spacing guidelines specified above.



Even small windows can pose a threat to birds.
Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC



Horizontal stripes spaced two inches apart are an effective way to keep birds from hitting your windows. Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC

On the other side of this page, we provide information on some of the products you can use to help prevent birds from crashing into your windows and where to find them. **Windows with screens should already be safe for birds.**

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Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC.

Here are some quick and affordable ways to protect birds from your windows. These should be applied to the outside of the glass to break up reflections.



Window tape patterns are easy to apply and provide an effective deterrent against bird strikes. Shown is ABC Bird Tape. Photo: Dariusz Zdziebkowski, ABC.



Tempera paint is a washable, long-lasting, and non-toxic solution to preventing bird/window collisions. Photo: Christine Sheppard, ABC.



Window netting provides a see-through screen that will cut down on bird strikes. Photo: John Pace, BirdMaster Bird Control Systems

1. Apply Tempera paint (available at most art supply and craft stores) free-hand with brush or sponge, or use a stencil. Tempera is long-lasting, even in rain, and non-toxic, but comes right off with a damp rag or sponge. Find stencils at www.michaels.com, www.amazon.com, or download stencils for free at www.spraypaintstencils.com.
2. Use tape to create patterns. Any opaque tape can work, but translucent ABC BirdTape transmits light and is made to last outdoors (see www.birdsmartglass.org.)
3. Most window films designed for external use are not patterned and will not deter birds. However, there are two good options. Solyx Bird Safety Film has narrow horizontal or vertical stripes. CollidEscape is see-through from the inside, opaque from the outside. Find links for both at www.birdsmartglass.org.
4. If you don't want to alter the glass itself, Acopian Bird Savers (aka Zen Wind Curtains) are unobtrusive, as well as highly effective (www.acopianbirdsavers.org).
5. You can also stretch lightweight netting, screen, or other material over the window. The netting must be several inches in front of the window, so birds don't hit the glass after hitting the net. Several companies, (www.birdscreen.com, www.birdsavers.com) sell screens or other barriers that can be attached with suction cups or eye hooks (also see www.easyupshade.com, www.birdbgone.com, www.nixalite.com, or www.birdmaster.com).
6. What about prefabricated decals? Birds see decals shaped like raptors as obstacles but not as predators. To be effective, any type of decal must be spaced as described above, more closely than recommended by most manufacturers (www.windowdressingetc.com, www.windowalert.com, www.duncraft.com).

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